



Chris Plucker

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Chris Plucker

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

Position: Journalism Class

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 2 years

Q. What are the students in your journalism class working on now?

A. We are studying the First Amendment. Students are learning there are limitations to freedom of speech in a school setting. I want them to be very thoughtful as they write editorials. I want them to understand why there are limitations, so they have a clear understanding of what they can write.

Q. Why is it important to study issues and current events in this class?

A. They need to feel comfortable expressing how they feel about an issue. I often will challenge them to look at the other side so they have a clear perspective of the issue. We get into great discussions on issues ranging from the presidential elections to the budget crisis to school policies.

Q. How will skills students are learning in this class help them later in life?

A. They are learning how to research a topic and then communicate about it. They also learn how to cite their sources and organize their thoughts.

Q. How will the Corps of Engineers computer donation help your program?

A. The Corps computers are much faster than the computers we currently have in our classroom. Students will be able to learn more about layout and the software we use to design the paper.

COMMENTS FROM PIONEER PRINCIPAL DANA JONES:

"Innovative, interesting, alive, fun, engaging . . . well, you get the idea. Students in Chris Plucker's classroom want to be there and they are learning. Whether it's his humanities class or his journalism class, Chris challenges his students to think and to put thought to paper and into action. His 49er News has a healthy readership and has helped land him a place on the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin advisory board."

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
CHRIS PLUCKER'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM CHRIS...

The objective of this class is to get the students prepared to produce a school newspaper. We have two journalism classes and produce several newspapers a year. I want the students to be objective in their reports and write their news stories without opinion.

I'm excited for the kids when they discover something and the light clicks on. It's very obvious when it all comes together for them. It makes me feel like I'm doing my job.



I hope some of these students will continue to work on school newspapers as they go through school. The skills they are learning will help them the rest of their lives.